

CHAPTER

7

PREREADING AND VOCABULARY

The Electoral Process

2

Practicing Dictionary Skills

Directions: Use a dictionary to find the number of syllables in, part of speech of, and definition of each word below. Then write a sample sentence using the word.

1. **nomination** syllables: _____ part of speech: _____
definition: _____
sample sentence: _____

2. **caucus** syllables: _____ part of speech: _____
definition: _____
sample sentence: _____

3. **direct primary** syllables: _____ part of speech: _____
definition: _____
sample sentence: _____

4. **precinct** syllables: _____ part of speech: _____
definition: _____
sample sentence: _____

5. **subsidy** syllables: _____ part of speech: _____
definition: _____
sample sentence: _____

6. **general election** syllables: _____ part of speech: _____
definition: _____
sample sentence: _____

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER OUTLINE

The Electoral Process

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Directions: Fill in the outline below. Filling in the blanks will help you as you read and study Chapter 7.

I. Section 1: The Nominating Process**A. Nominating Candidates**

1. The nomination of candidates is the naming of those who will run for _____.
2. Through the _____ method, a person simply declares they are running for office.
3. A _____ is a group of people who meet to select candidates they will support in an upcoming election.
4. With the convention process, _____ are sent from the states to a national _____.

B. Primaries

1. A _____ is an election within a party to choose the party's candidates.
2. The two basic forms of the direct primary are the _____ primary and the _____ primary.
3. Critics of the closed primary claim that it violates voters' _____.
4. In a _____, the two top vote-getters must run against each other.
5. In a _____ election, candidates are not identified by party.
6. A _____ primary is an election that is part of the process for choosing candidates for President.

C. Voters' Views on the Primary

Most people dislike having to declare a _____ in order to vote in the primary.

CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)**The Electoral Process****2****D. Nomination by Petition**

1. Nomination by petition is often used at the _____.
2. Candidates are nominated by gathering _____ from qualified voters in their district.

II. Section 2: Elections**A. How Elections are Administered**

There are some _____ laws in the Constitution. Congress has the power to fix the _____, _____, and _____ of holding elections of members of Congress.

B. Early Voting

_____ is the process by which people can vote without going to polling places on election day. Most states now have regular, formal _____.

C. The Coattail Effect

1. This effect occurs when a popular candidate at the top of the ballot influences voters to choose other candidates from the _____.
2. A _____ effect can occur when the candidate at the top of the ballot is not popular.

D. Precincts and Polling Places

1. A precinct is a _____ that usually serves no more than 1,000 people.
2. A polling place is where voters come to _____.

CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)

The Electoral Process

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E. How People Cast Their Votes

Today, all states require that _____ be cast in
_____. They are usually cast on some type of
_____.

III. Section 3: Money and Elections

A. Financing Campaigns

1. _____ of dollars are spent each year on political campaigns.
2. Candidates and parties get their money from both _____ sources and from the _____ treasury.
3. Private sources of money include small contributors, wealthy people, _____ themselves, _____ committees, and _____ organizations.

B. Regulating Campaign Finance

1. The _____ administers all federal law concerning campaign finance.
2. The FEC enforces election law in four areas: (1) disclosure of _____ information; (2) limits on campaign _____; (3) limits on _____ spending; and (4) _____ funds for presidential campaigns.

C. Hard Money and Soft Money

1. _____ is contributions given directly to candidates for their campaigns. It is limited and must be reported to the _____.
2. Soft money refers to funds given to _____ or other political organizations, in _____ amounts.

CHAPTER
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SECTION 1

READING COMPREHENSION

The Nominating Process

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1. What is the critical first step in the election process?

2. Explain the importance of the nominating process in each of the following:
 - a. a two-party system _____

 - b. a one-party constituency _____

3. What is a general election?

4. List and briefly describe the five ways nominations are made in the U.S.
 - a. _____

 - b. _____

 - c. _____

 - d. _____

 - e. _____

5. Why is the caucus rarely used today except in presidential elections?

6. Why did the direct primary replace the convention in most States?

7. Define the following:
 - a. closed primary _____
 - b. open primary _____
 - c. blanket primary _____

READING COMPREHENSION (continued)

The Nominating Process

3

8. Why is the blanket primary no longer in use?
- _____
- _____
9. List three arguments for, and two against, the closed primary.
- a. for: _____
- _____
- _____
- b. against: _____
- _____
10. What is a runoff primary, and when is it used?
- _____
- _____
11. What are nonpartisan elections, and how are candidates for these offices nominated?
- _____
- _____
12. How is the presidential primary different from other primaries?
- _____
- _____
13. What was the original purpose of the direct primary?
- _____
14. Name seven criticisms of the direct primary.
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____
- g. _____

CHAPTER

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SECTION 1

READING COMPREHENSION

The Nominating Process

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1. What is a nomination?

2. How many choices do voters usually have for most political offices on election day? Explain why.

3. Briefly describe the five ways nominations are made.

Nominating Method	Description
a. Self-announcement	
b. Caucus	
c. Convention	
d. Direct primary	
e. Petition	

READING COMPREHENSION (continued)

The Nominating Process

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4. Describe the kinds of direct primary in the table and summarize the arguments in favor of each.

a. Closed primary:

Arguments for:

b. Open primary:

Arguments for:

5. Describe the runoff primary that is used in some states.

6. Name two positions that often are filled by means of a nonpartisan election.

a. _____

b. _____

7. Describe three things that many voters dislike about the direct primary.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

CHAPTER
7
SECTION 1**CORE WORKSHEET A****The Nominating Process****3**

Nominating Procedures Talk Show

Today you will stage a political talk show segment entitled "Nominating Candidates in the American Democracy." The purpose of the segment is to share information about various ways in which candidates have been and currently are nominated for office, and to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these methods.

Task 1: Assign roles

Each member of your group will assume a different role in the talk show. Decide within your group who will serve in the following roles:

Moderator: Guides discussion, asks questions.

Historian: Addresses questions about past practices and issues.

Political Expert: Has knowledge of current practices and issues.

Candidate: Has the perspective of a candidate seeking the nomination of a major party for high office.

Task 2: Conduct research

Each member of your group will research information related to his or her assigned role. Use your textbooks and any other available resource, such as the Internet.

Groups should work together to ensure that all members have prepared for the presentation.

Task 3: Present the Talk Show

Present your show, with the moderator guiding the discussion and other members of the group answering questions and contributing to the discussion from their area of expertise.

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SECTION 1

CORE WORKSHEET B

The Nominating Process

3

Supreme Court Ruling on the Blanket Primary

The excerpts below are from the Supreme Court opinion in *California Democratic Party v. Jones*. In that case, the Court ruled on California's "blanket primary," in which all the candidates up for nomination appeared on the same ballot, regardless of party. California had passed a law in 1996 creating the blanket primary. In a 7-2 opinion, the Court found the blanket primary unconstitutional. Read the excerpts, and then answer the questions that follow.

From the Court's Opinion

We have recognized, of course, that States have a major role to play in structuring and monitoring the election process, including primaries. . . .

What we have not held, however, is that the processes by which political parties select their nominees are . . . wholly public affairs that States may regulate freely. To the contrary, we have continually stressed that when States regulate parties' internal processes they must act within limits imposed by the Constitution. . . .

Representative democracy in any populous unit of governance is unimaginable without the ability of citizens to band together in promoting among the electorate candidates who espouse their political views. The formation of national political parties was almost concurrent with the formation of the Republic itself. . . . Consistent with this tradition, the Court has recognized that the First Amendment protects "the freedom to join together in furtherance of common political belief," . . . which "necessarily presupposes the freedom to identify the people who constitute the association, and to limit the association to those people only. . . ." That is to say, a corollary of the right to associate is the right not to associate.

In no area is the political association's right to exclude more important than in the process of selecting its nominee. That process often determines the party's positions on the most significant public policy issues of the day . . .

From the Dissenting Opinion

The blanket primary system instituted by [California law] does not abridge "the ability of citizens to band together in promoting among the electorate candidates who espouse their political views." . . . The Court's contrary conclusion rests on the premise that a political party's freedom of expressive association includes a "right not to associate," which in turn includes a right to exclude voters unaffiliated with the party from participating in the selection of that party's nominee in a primary election. . . .

. . . [T]he associational rights of political parties are neither absolute nor as comprehensive as the rights enjoyed by wholly private associations. . . . I think it clear—though the point has never been decided by this court—"that a State may require parties to use the primary format for selecting their nominees." . . . The reason a State may impose this significant restriction on a party's associational freedoms is that both the general election and the primary are quintessential forms

CORE WORKSHEET B (continued)**The Nominating Process****3**

of state action. It is because the primary is state action that an organization—whether it calls itself a political party or just a “Jaybird” association—may not deny non-Caucasians the right to participate in the selection of its nominees. . . .

The so-called “right to associate” that the Court relies upon, then, is simply inapplicable to participation in a state election. A political party, like any other association, may refuse to allow non-members to participate in the party’s decisions when it is conducting its own affairs. . . . But an election, unlike a convention or caucus, is a public affair.

Reflection Questions

1. Summarize the main argument from the Court opinion excerpt.

2. Summarize the main argument from the dissenting opinion excerpt.

3. Do you think the majority opinion helps make the electoral process more fair and effective? Explain your answer.

CHAPTER

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SECTION 1

CORE WORKSHEET B

The Nominating Process

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Supreme Court Ruling on the Blanket Primary

In 1996, California passed a law that created the "blanket primary." All people who ran for nomination were put on the same ballot, regardless of party. In *California Democratic Party v. Jones*, the Supreme Court ruled that the blanket primary was unconstitutional. It was a 7–2 decision.

Read the summary of the Court's ruling below. Then answer the questions that follow.

From the Court's Opinion

- The States play a major role in setting up and overseeing elections. This includes primary elections.
- However, the way a political party chooses its nominee is not entirely a public affair. States cannot freely control the way parties choose their candidates. States must act within the limits set by the Constitution.
- In a democracy, people can band together to support candidates who share their views. The First Amendment protects this right. The Court believes that the First Amendment applies to political parties. This amendment protects "the freedom to join together" because of "common political belief." Parties have the freedom to say who belongs to the party. And, parties can say who does not belong to the party.
- Therefore, political parties have the right to place limits on who helps pick their nominees. The nominating process is important to parties. It often affects the party's stands on important issues.

From the Dissenting Opinion

- The blanket primary system does not take rights away from citizens. They can still band together to share their political views.
- A State can say that a political party must use primary elections to choose its nominees. It can require a party to allow African Americans to help choose its nominees. This is because general elections and primaries are public events.

CORE WORKSHEET B (continued)

The Nominating Process

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- A political party can stop non-members from taking part in its decisions when carrying out its own affairs. But an election, unlike a convention or caucus, is a public affair. States can require a party to use a certain type of primary.

1. What main point does the Court's opinion make?

2. What main point does the dissenting opinion make?

3. Do you think the majority opinion helps make the electoral process more fair and effective? Why or why not?
